



The Provider's Source Update from the Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Project

"Building Bridges, Closing Gaps"



February, 2008

Survey analyzes parents' attitudes & behaviors towards teen drug use



SAMHSA



NC Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities and
Substance Abuse Services



This publication was produced by UNCG's Center for Youth, Family, and Community Partnerships in collaboration with the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services with financial support from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (grant number 6 J79 T117387-02-2).

NCDHHS
DMH/DD/SAS
Community Policy Management
Substance Abuse Services
3005 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-3005
919-733-4670
919-733-4556 (fax)

At a time when teens are faced with new threats from the "abuse" of prescription and over the counter drugs, the number of discussions between parents and teens about the risks of drug abuse has decreased significantly, according to a national study released today by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America.

The Partnership's 19th Annual Partnership Attitude Tracking Study (PATS) represents a deep analysis into parental attitudes and behaviors towards teen drug use. It is the only ongoing national research study that delves into what parents are thinking and how they respond to the continual changes in the drug landscape. Since 1993, GfK Roper Public Affairs and Media has conducted the PATS study for the Partnership.

This 2006 PATS survey on parents confirms a 12 percent decline from 2005 in the recent discussions (four or more) between parents and their teens about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse (55 percent in 2005 down to 49 percent in 2006). Only half of parents, 54 percent, reported thoroughly discussing the use of drugs like heroin, cocaine and crack with their kids. Of greater concern is that a mere 36 percent of parents reported having in-depth conversations about abuse of prescription medications and only 33 percent have thoroughly discussed abuse of OTC cough and cold medicines with their teens.

More alarming is the misperception among many parents that the abuse of prescription (Rx) and over-the-counter (OTC) medications is safer than the use of illegal drugs. While a vast majority of parents are aware of new drug threats like teens' abuse of medicines, parents are not thoroughly covering the very real health risks of medication abuse with their kids. On average, parents are a third less likely to discuss the risks of prescription and over-the-counter medicine abuse than they are to discuss the risks of drugs like heroin, cocaine, and crack with their teens.

The 2006 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study surveyed 1,356 parents, with a deeper analysis of parents of teens, grades 7-12. Top-line findings from this tracking study show parents feel they need more help talking with their kids about living healthy and drug-free lives and understanding constantly shifting drug trends.

For more information, [visit www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org)

New Online Multi-Language Resources

The Multi-Language Initiative (MLI) of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) has released publications for non-English-speakers or those with limited English-language abilities.

MLI presents new adaptations of What Is Substance Abuse Treatment? A Booklet for Families, created for Chinese-, Vietnamese-, and Korean- language audiences. Additional MLI products available in Spanish, Russian, and Navajo can be downloaded from the KAP website:

<http://www.kap.samhsa.gov/mli/index.htm>

Mark your calendars

21st Annual Research Conference A System of Care for Children's Mental Health: Expanding the Research Base

Sponsored by the University of South Florida

The Marriott Waterside, Tampa, FL

Dates: February 24-27

<http://rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu/rteconference/default.cfm>

2008 Winter School

We will be sponsoring an advanced Cannabis Youth Treatment (CYT) Training and a speaker for Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (TF-CBT).

Sponsored by the North Carolina Foundation for Alcohol and Drug Studies

The Village Inn, Winston-Salem, NC

Dates: February 24-27

Contact: (910) 799-6594, registrar@ncfads.org

<http://www.ncfads.org/aboutschool.html>

